

Internet Use for Laboratory-Related Purposes

by Kathy LaBeau

The Pacific Northwest Laboratory Medicine Sentinel Monitoring Network was created in 1995 to gather ongoing information about practices in hospital, independent, and physician office laboratories (POLs) in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

In April 2001, a questionnaire was sent to network participants to learn how laboratorians use the Internet for work-related purposes. Two hundred eighteen laboratories returned a completed questionnaire. The following summarizes some of the findings of this study.

Access to the Internet

Network participants were asked if they had access to the Internet at work and at home and whether they used the Internet for work-related purposes in either of these settings. Overall, 73% of the respondents stated they had access to the Internet at work and 48% used the Internet while at work. Eighty-four percent had access to the Internet at home and 35% used the Internet for work-related purposes at home. Over half (54%) used the Internet for work-related purposes, either at work or home. This provides useful information to anyone providing or hoping to provide laboratory products, services or training opportunities online.

We found that many network respondents are seasoned Internet users - many listed more than 20 sites and one listed 45 sites that they accessed. Others were found to use the Internet only minimally. Through this questionnaire we were able to show participants the array of information

available that can help them in laboratory-related activities and to open their eyes to opportunities online.

Information and sites accessed on the Internet

The participants that used the Internet for work-related purposes were asked to tell us about the specific types of laboratory-related information they accessed and the sites they used.

Type of information accessed (N=871 sites)

Category	Number	Percent
Government agency	259	30
Laboratory testing products or services	174	20
Professional organizations	159	18
Accreditation organizations	80	9
Quality improvement	62	7
Business management	36	4
Other	101	12

In this issue we share some selected categories of websites that the network participants accessed. In future issues of *Elaborations*, we will be sharing website addresses (uniform resource locators [URLs]) for the other categories listed above.

A complete listing of websites gathered from this study (for all categories listed above) can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at: www.phppo.cdc.gov/dls/mlp/pnlmsmn.asp

NOTE: The following summarizes the data collected from network participants. We do not intend to endorse or promote any agency, organization, corporation, or website listed. Website addresses were accessed in June 2001 to confirm their accuracy. Changes in website addresses and links may have occurred since then.

Inside This Issue

- 2-5 Internet Sites, cont'd
 - 6 Lab Conference Information / Calendar of Events
-

continued on page 2

Internet Use for Laboratory Related Purposes, continued from page 1

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY SITES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sites

Epidemiology Program Office
National Center for Health Statistics
National Center for Infectious Diseases
National Immunization Program
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Public Health Practice Program Office

Website address (URL)

www.cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/epo/
www.cdc.gov/nchs/
www.cdc.gov/ncidod/
www.cdc.gov/nip/
www.cdc.gov/niosh/
www.cdc.gov/phppo/

General types of information available: Regulations, Publications, Reference information, Guidelines, Recommendations, Standards, Licensing, Standard practices, Technical information, Bioterrorism, Travel medicine, Grants, Training opportunities, Test categorization, Test complexity, Legislation, Foreign country medical requirements, Tuberculosis protocol, Infection control.

Specific sites:

Regulations-CLIA
Publications-Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)
Reference

www.phppo.cdc.gov/clia/
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/

Prevention of diseases, disabilities, injuries

[//wonder.cdc.gov/](http://wonder.cdc.gov/)

Growth charts

www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/

Guidelines

Needle safety

www.cdc.gov/niosh/

Recommendations

HIV, HCV, HBV

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/

Immunization

www.cdc.gov/nip/

Training opportunities

www.phppo.cdc.gov/

Test categorization, test complexity

www.phppo.cdc.gov/clia/

Safety

Preventing needlesticks

www.cdc.gov/niosh/2000-108.html

Sharps disposal

www.cdc.gov/niosh/

Occupational Safety & Health Agency (OSHA) sites

www.osha.gov

General types of information available: Regulations, Needle Safety Act, Publications, Standards, Blood Borne Pathogens, Policies, Guidelines, Legislation, Research, Reference, Ergonomics, Infection control, Continuing education, Needlestick injury, Glass capillary tube safety, Compliance issues.

Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) sites

www.hcfa.gov

General types of information available: Regulations, Reimbursement, Medical fee schedule, Medicare updates, Medical necessity, Coding, Training, Advanced beneficiary notices (ABNs), Unique provider identification numbers (UPINs), Correct coding initiative, Reimbursement for certain CPT codes, ICD-9 codes, Laboratory fee schedule, Waived tests, Compliance, Licensing, Part A local medical review policies (LMRP), Standards, Point of care testing information, Opinions, Reference, Test categorization, Legislation, Technical component for pathology, Safe needle systems.

Specific sites:

Regulations-CLIA

www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/clia/cliahome.htm

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sites

www.fda.gov

Center for Devices & Radiological Health

www.fda.gov/cdrh/

Center for Biologics Evaluation & Research

www.fda.gov/cber/

General types of information available: Regulations, Recalls, Standards, Mammogram standards, Licensing, Standard practices, Publications, Technical information, Research, Reference, Continuing education, Guidelines, Safety, Registration forms, Approved testing/instruments, Test categorization, Test complexity, Training, Reagent information, Grants, Legislation, Safety.

Internet Use for Laboratory Related Purposes, continued from page 2

Specific sites:

Needlestick safety alert
Guidelines

www.fda.gov/cdrh/safety.html
www.fda.gov/cber/

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) sites

www.phppo.cdc.gov
www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/clia/cliahome.htm

General types of information available: Standards, Test categorization, Continuing education, Waived test list, Regulations, Licensing, Standard practices, Publications, Technical information, History of CLIA, Legislation, Guidelines.

Health and Human Services (HHS) sites

www.hhs.gov
www.dhhs.gov

General types of information available:

Compliance issues, Regulations, Guidelines, Reference information, Billing issues.

Specific sites:

Office of Inspector General (OIG)
Office of Population Affairs (OPA)

www.hhs.gov/progorg/oig
www.hhs.gov/opa

National Institutes of Health (NIH) sites

www.nih.gov

General types of information available: Reference, Regulations, Guidelines, Standards, Research, Licensing, Training, Publications, Grants, Legislation.

Specific sites:

Guidelines

National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases

www.niddk.nih.gov

“Federal Register” site

General types of information available: Regulations

Specific sites:

National Archives and Records Administration

www.nara.gov

Medicare site

www.medicare.gov/

General types of information available:

Regulations, Guidelines, Research, Reference, Continuing education, Publications.

Specific sites:

Local medical review policies (LMRP)

www.hcfa.gov

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA)

www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/hipaa

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

www.epa.gov

Regulations, Safety

Veterans Affairs (VA)

Safe sharps devices

www.va.gov
www.va.gov/vasafety/

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Regulations, Standards, Reference, Publications

www.dot.gov
www.transit-safety.volpe.dot.gov

STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY SITES

Washington State Sites

www.wa.gov

Department of Health

www.doh.wa.gov

Medicare updates, Hospital statistics, Regulations, Guidelines, Reference, Training, Health care assistant licenses, X-Ray licenses

continued on page 4

Internet Use for Laboratory Related Purposes, continued from page 3

Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/LQA_home.htm
Licensing, Medical Test Site rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Standards, Training

State Public Health Laboratory www.doh.wa.gov/phl

Labor and Industries - WISHA www.wa.gov/lni/wisha
Chemical Hygiene Plan, Respiratory Protection Plan, Standards, Blood Borne Pathogens, Regulations

Department of Social and Health Services www.dshs.wa.gov
Medicare updates

Department of Revenue www.dor.wa.gov
Tax information and rules

LABORATORY PRODUCTS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Abbott Laboratories	www.abbott.com
ACT Diagnostics	www.actdiagnostics.com
Allegiance	www.allegiance.net
AmeriNet	www.amerinet.org
Baxter	www.baxter.com
Bayer	www.bayer.com
Beckman Coulter	www.beckmancoulter.com
Bio-Rad Laboratories	www.bio-rad.com
Biosite	www.biosite.com
Bulb Direct	www.bulbdirect.com
Careside	www.careside.com
Cerner	www.cerner.com
Charter Medical, Ltd.	www.chartermedical.com
Dade Behring	www.dadebehring.com
Diagnostic Systems Laboratories, Inc.	www.dslabs.com
Diagnostic Products Corporation	www.dpcweb.com
Fisher Scientific	www.fishersci.com
Gamma Biologicals, Inc.	www.gammabio.com
Gloves in a Bottle	www.glovesinabottle.com
Hemochron	www.itcmed.com
HemoCue	www.hemocue.com
Intoximeters, Inc	www.intox.com
iStat Corporation	www.istat.com
Johnson & Johnson	www.johnsonandjohnson.com
Lab Safety Supply	www.labsafety.com
Labconco	www.labconco.com
Lifescan, Inc	www.lifescan.com
McNeil Drug Co.	www.dotcomadvisors.com
Med Electronics, Inc.	www.med-electronics.com
Oncology Supply PSS	www.oncologysupply.com
Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics	www.orthoclinical.com
PML Microbiologicals	www.pmlmicro.com
Precision Microscope	www.microscopesnewandused.com
Premier	www.premierinc.com
Provider Select	www.providerselect.com
PSS/World Medical, Inc.	www.pssworldmedical.com
Quantimetrix Corporation	www.4qc.com
Rainin Pipetting Solutions	www.rainin.com

continued on page 5

Internet Use for Laboratory Related Purposes, continued from page 4

Raven Biological
Remel, Inc
Roche
SaftPak, Inc.
Sigma Diagnostics
StatSpin
Vitek

www.devicelink.com
www.remelinc.com
www.roche.com/diagnostics/
www.saftpak.com
www.sigma-aldrich.com
www.statspin.com
www.vitek.com

PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS

AAB-American Association of Bioanalysts
AABB-American Association of Blood Banks
AAFP-PT-American Academy of Family Physicians
API-American Proficiency Institute
CAP-College of American Pathologists
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

www.aab.org
www.aabb.org
www.aafp.org/pt
www.api-pt.com
www.cap.org
www.slh.wisc.edu/pt/index.html

NOTE: The preceeding information summarizes the data collected from network participants. We do not intend to endorse or promote any agency, organization, corporation, or website listed. Website addresses were accessed in June 2001 to confirm their accuracy. Changes in website addresses and links may have occurred since then.

"ELABORATIONS" is a free monthly publication of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Public Health Laboratories (PHL) and Office of Laboratory Quality Assurance (LQA).

Secretary, DOH: Mary Selecky
Health Officer: Maxine Hayes, MD, MPH
Director, PHL: Romesh Gautam, PhD
Program Manager, LQA: Gail Neuenschwander
Editor: Leonard Kargacin (206) 361-2804
Circulation: Leonard Kargacin (206) 361-2804

Comments, letters to the editor, information for publication, and requests for subscription can be directed to:

"ELABORATIONS"
Washington State Public Health Labs
1610 NE 150th Street
Shoreline, WA 98155

e-mail address: leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov

NOTE: Letters to the editor may be published unless specified otherwise by the author.

Website addresses:

DOH home page: <http://www.doh.wa.gov>

LQA home page:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/fsl/LQA_Home.htm

Don't Forget to Register!

8th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 12, 2001

Seattle Marriott Sea-Tac Hotel

Conference Update

The 8th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference will be held on **November 12th** at the Seattle Marriott SeaTac Hotel.

The Honorable Jim McDermott, D-WA has been invited to be the luncheon speaker at this year's Conference. Rep. McDermott is a sponsor of House Resolution (HR) 1798, a bill that would eliminate Medicare carrier variation in payment by setting all fees at the national cap, allow a CPI update in 2002, and require Medicare to follow a specific process in setting rates for laboratory tests. Rep. McDermott has been invited to discuss why he supports the bill and discuss its prospects in the current Congress.

NOTE: Flyers and registration forms for the Conference were mailed in mid-September. If you have not received your program flyer for this year's Conference and would like to attend, please contact Leonard Kargacin at (206) 361-2804 or by e-mail at leonard.kargacin@doh.wa.gov.

Calendar of Events

PHL Training Classes:

Examination of Urine Sediments	
October 2	Shoreline
October 4	Shoreline

Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium

October 10 - 13	Portland
-----------------	----------

8th Annual Clinical Laboratory Conference

November 12	Seattle
-------------	---------

WSSCLS/NWSSAMT Spring Meeting

April 25-27, 2002	Everett
-------------------	---------

Contact information for the events listed above can be found on page 5. The Calendar of Events is a list of upcoming conferences, deadlines, and other dates of interest to the clinical laboratory community. If you have events that you would like to have included, please mail them to ELABORATIONS at the address on page 5. Information must be received at least one month before the scheduled event. The editor reserves the right to make final decisions on inclusion.